WRITTEN ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Settlement of River Water Disputes

†*164. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development has expressed its opinion that the existing law is inadequate to settle the river water disputes;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that several disputes regarding sharing of river waters are pending; if so, what are these disputes together with the names of the States where these disputes exist; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to settle these disputes?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) In order to ensure that awards of inter-state water tribunals are given within a reasonable period of time as also the effectiveness of such awards, National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan has recommended to amend the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956. An Implementation Cell in the National Water Development Agency has been constituted to examine recommendations of the National Commission and suggest to Union Government about the implementability or other-wise of the recommendations and to suggest modalities for impementation of such recommendations, as found implementable. An Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission has been constituted for assisting the implementation cell in examining the recommendations.

The Inter-State Water Disputes viz. Ravi-Beas Water Dispute between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and the Cauvery Water Disputes between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry were referred to the Tribunals under the provisions of the Inter State Water Dispute Act, 1956 (ISWD Act, 1956) for adjudication in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. Ravi-Beas Waters Tribunal has submitted its fact finding report on 30.1.1987. Party States and the Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under Section 5(3) of ISWD Act, 1956. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.